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<p align="center">UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</p> <p align="center">(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</p>	<p><i>Attorney Docket No.</i> 99RSS271</p> <p><i>First Named Inventor or Application Identifier</i> H. ROSS WILLIAMS</p>	<p align="right">  </p>
<p>ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner of Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231</p>	<p><i>Title</i> PROGRAMMABLE CONSTANT CURRENT "OFF HOOK" CIRCUIT</p> <p><i>Express Mail No.</i> EL339111473US</p>	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. X Fee Transmittal Form PTO/SB/17 (*submit in duplicate*)
 2. X Specification [Total Pages: 13]
 3. X Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets: 5]
 4. X Oath or Declaration [Total Pages: 2]
 a. X Newly executed (original or copy)
 b. — Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
 (*for continuation/divisional with No. 17 completed*)

[Note No. 5 below]

i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**

Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if No. 4b is checked)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under No. 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (*Appendix*)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(*if applicable, all necessary*)

- a. Computer Readable Copy
b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
c. Statement verifying identity of above
 copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. X Power of Attorney
10. English Translation Document (*if applicable*)
11. Information Disclosure
 Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
 Copies of IDS Citations
12. Preliminary Amendment
13. X Return Receipt Postcard (*Itemized*)
14. Small Entity Statement(s)
 Statement filed in prior application. Status still
 proper and desired
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
 (*if foreign priority is claimed*)
16. Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate blank and supply the requisite information:

Continuation ☐ of prior application No.: 1
 Divisional ☐
 Continuation-in-part (CIP) ☐

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Name	Attn: David R. Clonts AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.				
Address	711 Louisiana, Suite 1900				
City	Houston	State	Texas	Zip Code	77002
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	(713) 220-5800	Fax	(713) 236-0822

David R. Clonts, Reg. No. 36,768

Date: 9/16/99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

(Attorney Docket No.: 99RSS271)

TITLE:

PROGRAMMABLE CONSTANT CURRENT "OFF HOOK" CIRCUIT

INVENTOR(S):

H. Ross Williams
118 Lake Crest Drive
Madison, AL 35758
Citizenship: U.S.A.

ASSIGNEE:

Conexant Systems, Inc.
4311 Jamboree Road
Newport Beach, CA 92660-3095

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Rochelle M. Pleasant

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

(Attorney Docket No.: 99RSS271)

***TITLE: PROGRAMMABLE CONSTANT CURRENT "OFF HOOK"
CIRCUIT***

SPECIFICATION

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus for communication devices, in particular an apparatus for providing a constant current while the device is in the "off-hook" state.

2. Description of the Related Art

Modems are communications devices which employ digital processing techniques to transmit data over a band-limited communications channel, such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). Generally, to transmit data over the PSTN, a modem modulates the binary data and then transmits the data over the band-limited communications channel. A receiving modem is coupled to the band-limited communications channel, and receives the binary data and demodulates the binary data.

Generally, in order for the modem to effectively communicate over the PSTN, such as a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) line, the modem's "off-hook" electrical interface should meet a telephone standard, such as EIA/TIA-496-A. The standard includes the necessary electrical interface criteria for the modem, including "off-hook" impedance, loop current, and dial tone levels.

"Off-hook" refers to a state of the communication device, such as when the communication link between the device and the PSTN is enabled for voice, data communication or network signaling. The term "off-hook" is derived from the original telephone usage in which they refer to the position of the hand set with respect to the cradle of

the telephone. An improper interface between the device and POTS line may result in lost data. In addition, a variety of other performance criteria, such as connection speed of the device, may be adversely affected by an improperly interfaced device. Furthermore, an improper device interface may degrade POTS network performance.

5 Present modem designs incorporate a fixed valued resistor or a resistor/transistor element as a current element when the modem is in the "off-hook" state. This off-hook impedance is placed in series with the telephone line impedance. Since most modems use an amplitude modulation scheme for data transmission, DC biasing currents can affect modem communication. Furthermore, because telephone line impedance can vary, data transmission
10 can be affected by the present modem designs utilizing a fixed-value resistor design.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, one feature of the invention provides a constant current to an Analog Front End (AFE) of a communication device while the device is in the off-hook state. The apparatus provides the necessary circuitry for connecting a communications device, such as a modem, with a telephone network, such a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network. When the communication device is in an off-hook state, the apparatus provides a constant DC current to the telephone line. Transmission and reception of data over the telephone network is optimized when the average DC biasing current of a data signal is about 30ma. The apparatus generally maintains an average current of about 30ma regardless of the loading of the telephone network line. Since most communication devices use current modulation for data transmission, the present invention provides a constant DC biasing current for such data transmission.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the present invention can be obtained when the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment is considered in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1 is a block diagram of a transmitter and a receiver coupled to a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network;

 Figure 2 is a block diagram of a communication system using a POTS interface;

 Figure 3 is a block diagram of a telephone interface;

 Figure 4 is a circuit diagram of a telephone interface; and

10 Figure 5 is a flow chart of a method of optimizing a communication device coupled to a telephone network.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning now to the drawings, Figure 1 is a block diagram of a transmitter and receiver coupled to a telephone network, such as Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network of a PSTN. A transmitter 100 is coupled to a Customer Premise Equipment/Telephone Company (CPE/TELCO) interface 102, such as a wall jack (e.g., an RJ-11 jack). The interface 102 generally represents the boundary between the customer and the TELCO. Various CPEs are connected to a TELCO central office switch (CO) (not shown). The CO is then coupled to a telephone network 104. A receiving end is also coupled to the telephone network 104 by its corresponding central office (not shown). An interface representing the boundary of the customer premise and TELCO is represented by an interface 106 which couples the CO and a CPE receiver 108.

The CPE typically include communication devices, such as a modem or a telephone. The CPE typically adheres to interface standards. The interface standards typically provide physical size and electrical loading requirements necessary for the CPE to operate at a defined quality of service. Without the standards, it is possible that a customer premise equipment may not function when coupled to the telephone network, nor perform at optimal levels.

Telephone lines 110, 112 couple the CPE/TELCO interfaces 102, 106 with the telephone network 104. The telephone lines 110, 112 are generally referred to as a local loop. The telephone lines 110, 112 include tip and ring conductors which have inherent line impedances. As specified in the EIA/TIA-496-A (EIA/TIA) standard, the TELCO provides a DC potential of approximately 48 volts across the tip and ring conductors.

POTS refers to type of service of the PSTN. Access services, such as placing and receiving calls are generally defined by the EIA/TIA standard. When the CPE 100, 108 needs to access the PSTN, the CPE 100, 108 goes to an "off-hook" state.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a telephone network using a telephone interface. A CPE 200, such as a modem, is coupled to a telephone interface 202. The telephone interface 202 can be incorporated into the CPE 200 or the telephone interface 202 can be a stand-alone device coupled to the CPE 200. An CPE/TELCO interface 102 illustrates the boundary between the customer premises and the telephone company. The CPE/TELCO interface 102 is coupled to a telephone network 104, such as a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network, an x Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL) network, or an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN). Depending upon the telephone network 104, the CPE 200 is coupled to the CPE/TELCO interface 102, and typically adheres to a variety of standards, including an electrical interface standard. For example, in the United States, the interface standard is EIA/TIA standard.

The EIA/TIA standard provides electrical requirements for accessing the PSTN. For example, the EIA/TIA standard specifies that it is desirable that a minimum of 40 seconds be allowed at the completion of dialing, before a call is abandoned and retried. Other requirements include a communication device's impedance when the device is on-hook or off-hook. Generally, the PSTN's impedance varies depending on a variety of conditions, such as the CPE/TELCO interface's 102 distance from a Central Office (not shown).

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a telephone interface. The universal telephone interface 202 is typically part of an Analog Front End (AFE) of the CPE 200. The telephone interface 202 is coupled to the CPE/TELCO interface (not shown) generally by tip and ring conductors. Although the tip and the ring conductors are shown in the figure, they can be used interchangeable that is, the conductor labeled "tip," could be a "ring" conductor, and the conductor labeled "ring" could be a "tip" conductor. The telephone interface 202 generally includes a driver 302, a current source circuit 300, and a hybrid receiver 304. An INPUT and an OUTPUT are typically coupled to a Coder/Decoder (CODEC) (not shown). The OUTPUT

of the CODEC is generally provided to the input of the driver 302. For illustrative purposes, the outputs of the driver 302 are coupled to the current source circuit 300 and the hybrid receiver 304. Typically, part of the output of the driver 302 is provided to the telephone network 104 via tip and ring lines. The hybrid receiver 304 generally provides a rejection of the transmit signals from the driver 302, while providing receive signals from the telephone network 104 to the INPUT of the CODEC. The current source circuit 300 generally provides a constant current for interfacing the CPE 200 when the telephone network 104. As will be discussed further below, the current source circuit 300 can be adjusted automatically depending upon the loading requirements of the telephone network 104. As mentioned previously, the impedance of the telephone network 104 typically varies depending upon conditions of the telephone network 104, such the CPE/TELCO's 102 distance to the CO (not shown).

Figure 4 is a circuit diagram of a constant current source circuit of a telephone interface. The current source circuit 300 is coupled to a transformer T1 and a RING and a TIP conductor of the CPE/TELCO I/F 102. An on-hook relay 400 is coupled to the ring conductor of the constant current circuit 300. The off-hook relay 400 closes when the CPE 200 is in a off-hook state and couples the CPE 200 with the telephone network 104. For illustrative purposes, the off-hook relay 400 is coupled to the RING conductor of the current circuit 300. The off-hook relay 400 location is not critical, and can be coupled to the TIP conductor of the current source circuit 300.

A diode bridge B1 is coupled to the off-hook relay 400 and TIP conductor. The diode bridge B1 rectifies the line voltage and provides the appropriate voltage polarity to voltage points V1 and V2, should the TIP and RING conductors be reversed. The voltage point V1 should always be greater than or equal to the voltage at the voltage point V2. Data transmitted over the telephone network 104 is typically represented by the AC component of

an electrical signal. A capacitor C1 decouples an DC component of the signal and provides the AC component to the transformer T1. The transformer T1 is coupled to the driver and hybrid receiver (not shown) and typically provides electrical isolation between the CPE 200 and the telephone network 104.

When the CPE 200 goes to an off-hook state, the off-hook relay 400 closes and a voltage appears across a diode bridge B1. A driver 402 is coupled to a 6.2 volt reference diode via resistors R5 and R6, which divide the 6.2 volts and provide a .86 volt reference to the non inverting input of the driver 402 (when the resistors R5 and R6 are 62k Ω and 10K Ω respectively). The driver 402 drives its output so that its inverting input is at that same voltage of .86 volts by driving a transistor Q1. Thus, the voltage across a resistor R7 is held constant at that .86 volts, and when the resistor R7 is selected at 27 Ω , the current through the resistor R7 is constant at approximated 30mA, which is drawn from the TIP and RING conductors via the bridge B1. Thus, a constant DC biasing current is drawn. Of course, a variety of other constant current sources could be substituted for sinking current.

The function of other circuit components will be apparent, such as a capacitor C3 used with the driver 402 to reduce high frequency response of the system. This allows the constant current source to operate from DC to low frequency AC (direct current or low frequency AC with no voice or other data) to establish the constant current source, while still allowing the higher frequency voice or modem or other data to pass through the capacitor C1 to the transformer T1.

Figure 5 is flow chart of a method of providing a constant DC current source. The method starts at step 500. The DC voltage across the TIP and RING conductors of the CPE 200 fluctuate at step 502. A constant DC current is provided to the tip and ring conductor of a transmitter and a receiver of a telephone interface at step 504. The method ends at step 506.

As discussed previously, the CPE 200 can typically be used with various telephone networks, where loads may fluctuate. Since the CPE 200 can be dynamically adjusted, the CPE 200 can be coupled to any telephone network 104 without suffering from signal distortion due to DC biasing currents.

5 Furthermore, certain telephone networks, such as a PBX system, are not current limited systems. In POTS networks, the EIA/TIA standard specifies that the telephone lines be current limited. Thus, if the telephone lines are shorted, a surge of current will not destroy the CPE. However, in a PBX system, typically there is no requirement that the system be current limited. Therefore, without a current source circuit, such as the current source circuit 300, the AFE of the CPE 200 may be damaged by a current surge from such PBX system.

The foregoing disclosure and description of the invention are illustrative and explanatory thereof, and various changes in the size, shape, materials, components, circuit elements, wiring connections and contacts, as well as in the details of the illustrative circuitry and construction and method of operation may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. An apparatus for interfacing customer premise equipment with a telephone
2 network, comprising:

3 an interface coupled to the telephone network, the interface comprising a
4 current source, wherein the current source provides a constant current to the customer
5 premise equipment when a line impedance of the telephone network varies in a
6 predetermined range when the customer premise equipment is off-hook; and

7 a tip conductor and a ring conductor, both the tip line and the ring conductors
8 are coupled to the interface.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the line impedance of the telephone network
2 is defined by an EIA/TIA-496-A interface standard.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old
2 Telephone System (POTS) network.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the current source includes a FET.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the constant current is approximately 30mA.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a PBX system.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an off-hook relay.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the current source includes a low pass filter.

1 9. An apparatus coupled to a telephone network, comprising:
2 a receiver;
3 an interface coupled to the receiver and the telephone network;
4 the interface comprising a current source, wherein the current source provides
5 a constant current to the receiver when a line impedance of the telephone network

6 varies in a predetermining range when the customer premise equipment is off-hook;
7 and
8 a tip conductor and a ring conductor; both the tip conductor and the ring
9 conductor are coupled to the interface.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the current source includes a FET.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old
2 Telephone Service network.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the line impedance of the telephone network
2 is defined by an EIA/TIA-496-A interface standard.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a coder/decoder.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the receiver is a hybrid receiver.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the telephone network is a PBX system.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the constant current is approximately 30mA.

1 17. A method of providing a constant current to an apparatus coupled to a
2 telephone network, comprising the steps of:

3 connecting the apparatus to a tip and a ring conductor;

4 taking the apparatus off-hook; and

5 sinking a constant DC bias current while off-hook, where the DC bias current
6 is independent of a load seen on the tip and the ring conductors.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old
2 Telephone Service (POTS) network.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the telephone network is a PBX System.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the DC bias current is approximately 30mA.

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method for interfacing a communication device, such as a Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) to different telephone networks. The telephone networks typically provide a voltage of 48 volts to the CPE. However, this DC voltage tends to fluctuate. Furthermore, the impedances of the telephone network varies. The apparatus provides a constant current to the communication device while coupled to different telephone networks. Since most communication devices use amplitude modulations for transmitting data, a constant DC biasing current is desired. The apparatus can sense load impedances of the telephone networks, and dynamically adjust the current source so that DC biasing currents remain relatively constant. The apparatus is coupled to the telephone network so that communication between the communication device and the telephone network is optimized.

009100-11142660

Figure 2

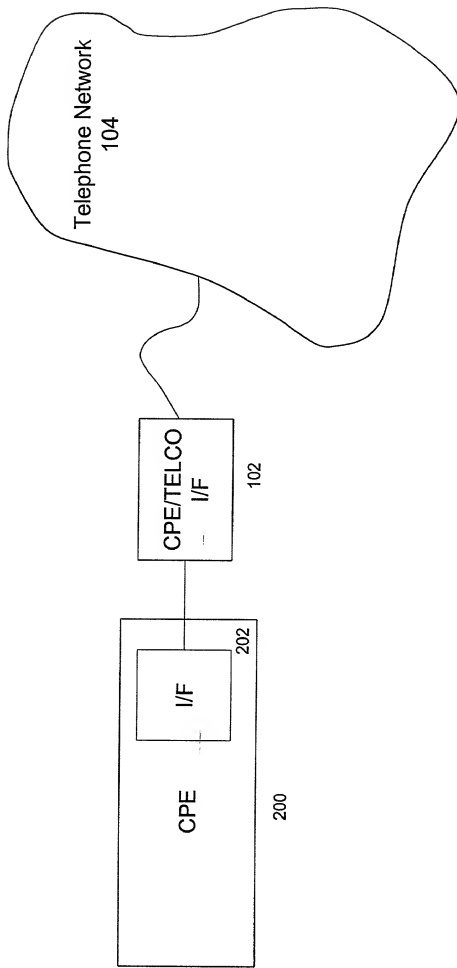
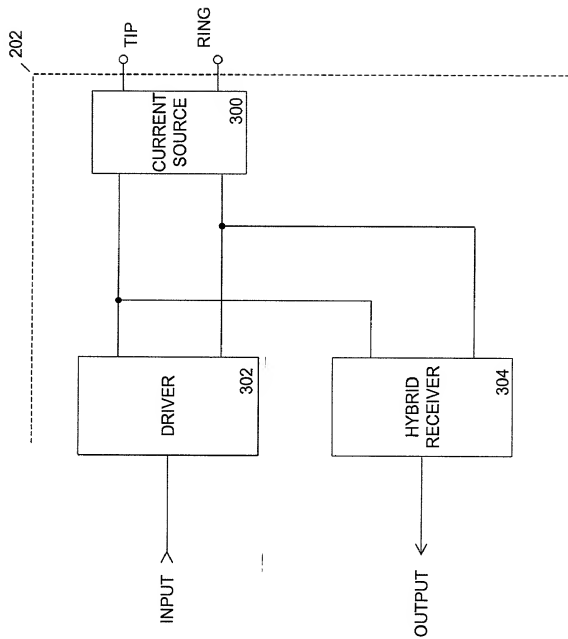
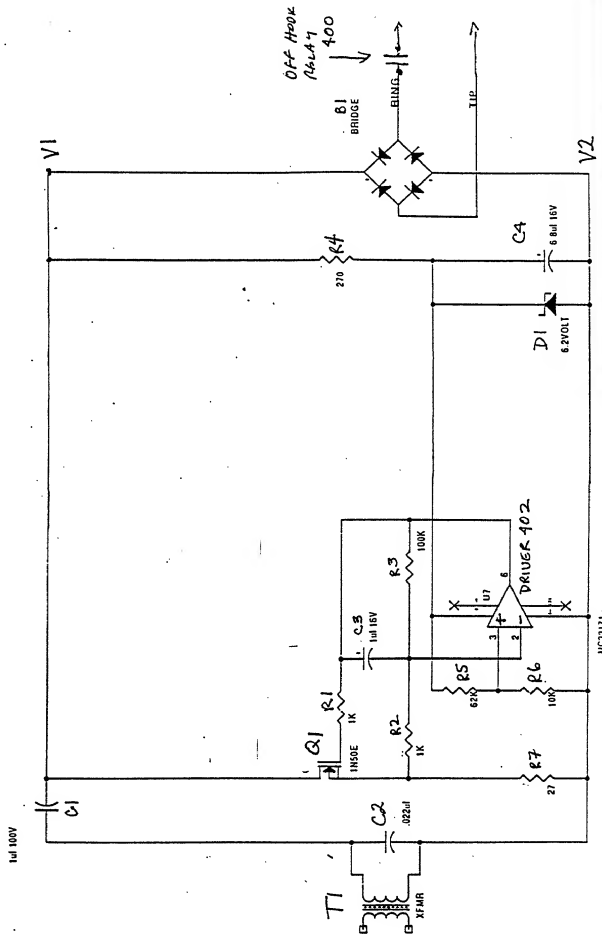


Figure 3



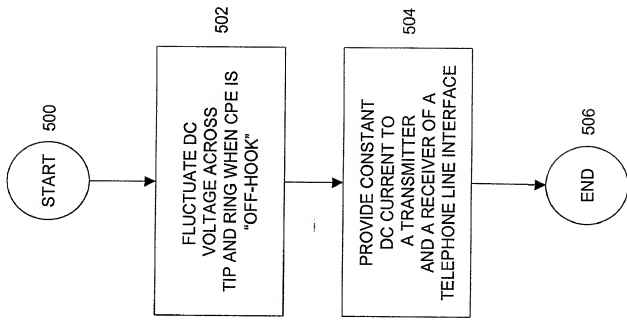
009700 111420000

Figure 4



File	MOTOR OF HOOK CONST CURRENT CTR	
Size	A	
Document Number		
Rev		

Figure 5



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **PROGRAMMABLE CONSTANT CURRENT "OFF HOOK" CIRCUIT**, the specification of which

(check one) [X] is attached hereto
 [] was filed on _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(e) and 120, of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>(Provisional Application)</u>	<u>(Filing Date)</u>	<u>(Status)</u>
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I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

James D. Bennett	Reg. No. 37,550
Michael R. Cannatti	Reg. No. 34,791
James B. Gambrell	Reg. No. 17,920
Mark J. Gatschet	Reg. No. 42,569
Dennis W. Gilstad	Reg. No. 36,810
Gary W. Hamilton	Reg. No. 31,834
Mira L. Helms	Reg. No. 43,668
H. Dale Langley	Reg. No. 35,927
Gloria L. Norberg	Reg. No. 36,706
Russell C. Scott	Reg. No. 43,103

Adam D. Sheehan	Reg. No. 42,146
Richard J. Smith	Reg. No. 30,496
Pete A. Smits	Reg. No. 39,036
Gary R. Stanford	Reg. No. 35,689
H. Shannon Tyson, Jr.	Reg. No. 42,193
David R. Clonts	Reg. No. 36,768
George W. Jordan III	Reg. No. 41,880

Of: Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 499-6219; and

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
1900 Pennzoil Place-South Tower
711 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 220-5800

I also hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Joseph W. King, Jr., Reg. No. 35,768
Philip K. Yu, Reg. No. 35,742

Address all telephone calls to David R. Clonts at telephone no. (713) 220-5800
Address all correspondence to David R. Clonts
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
1900 Pennzoil Place-South Tower
711 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

First named inventor:

Full name H. Ross Williams
Inventor's Signature H. Ross Williams Date _____
Residence Madison, Alabama Citizenship: U.S.
Post Office Address 111 Lake Crest Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758